

# NEWS

## Minor acts of vandalism cause major headaches

By Justin DeSantis  
staff writer  
September 30, 2006

When students deface or destroy parts of Penn State Erie, it doesn't just ruin how the campus looks.

It costs money. Sometimes a lot of money. And if that damage was caused at the resident halls, all the students living there will be charged.

The policy, as related by James Bowen, manager of Housing and Food Services, states that any damage that is caused on the floor of a resident hall has the price for repairs evenly divided by the number of students living in that hall. The bill is assessed to students via their school accounts.

The agreement is reviewed by the RAs for the incoming freshman. Also, the contract that students sign acknowledges that they are aware of this.

Already this year, the room numbers outside of doors through Lawrence Hall have been stolen. This, while a seemingly minor event, has cost \$6,000. A bill that will be equally sent to all those living there.

Last year, harm done to Senat Hall cost about \$3,000, due to siding that was damaged. The entire wall had to be repaired.

"If glass is broken from inside the building, the residents of that hall will be charged," says Bowen.

The very nature of the crimes are difficult to pinpoint, and the people are harder to identify.

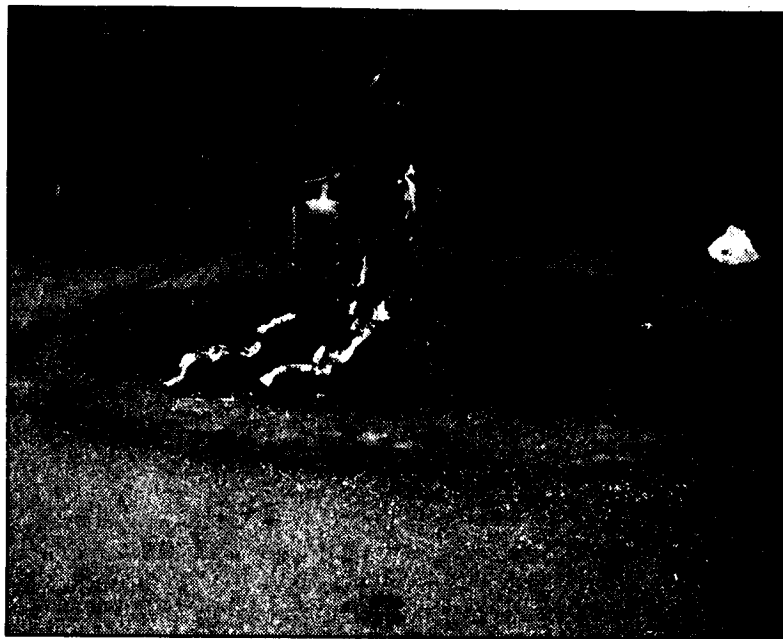
Jim Amann, Chief of Police for Penn State Behrend, says, "There are people who know things on this campus."

"The problem", says Amann, "is that people can't provide accounts without being identified."

The students may need to testify to incriminate people. Although

the information can be provided anonymously, that rarely leads to an arrest, which is exactly what Amann says will happen to offending students if they are caught.

"It only takes one second to cause damage," remarks Amann. It is not from a lack of trying, though. The crimes aren't very easy



Annie Sevin/THE BEHREND BEACON

Acts of vandalism are commonplace on the campus apartment quad.

to witness. Damage could be done right after a police officer passes by. And for the most part, Amann's six police officers don't patrol the residential areas. That is monitored by the RAs and the Housing department.

"Minor stuff, we may not even be informed [about]," says Amann.

Mostly, Amann and his officers handle things like vandalized vehicles in the commuter or even residential lots. Also, personal damage, damage done to buildings, and either university property or private property gets reported. The police reports are written so the insurance companies can see that the incidents were reported to the police.

"Most of the vandalism done is usually done Friday and Saturday night," says Amann.

Two days associated with going out, and for the most part, to drink. Some may think this is just caused by students going out to drink at bars. But Penn State Erie is not a "dry campus," as anyone at age 21 can have alcohol on campus. Provided, that is, that it stay in the dorm room that they are in. Students, no matter if they are legally allowed to purchase alcohol, are not allowed to have open containers on the campus.

"A lot of crimes that you see, whether it be on a campus or municipality, can be tied to alcohol," offers Amann.

This is a more visible trend with Police and Safety occurrences. Mr. Bowen cannot say that there is more likely a tendency to cause damage on one certain day.

"If their going to break something, they break it," says Bowen.

There is a higher tendency for damage to be caused closer towards spring break, when students are leaving the campus. With the start of classes, the students have been quiet compared to other years, according to Mr. Bowen. Mostly, the maintenance crew cleans up vomit, as the most common form of mess made.

Comments from maintenance staff could not be received in time.

The only form of prevention is to educate, to punish those that are caught, and to try to get the students to see past the fact that the where they live is more than just a dorm.

"We try to encourage students to make this campus their home away from home," says Bowen.

## Cardboard City raises money for Second Harvest Food Bank

By Melissa Whitten  
staff writer  
November 18, 2006

Where can you find a Ramen-noodle Ranch house? How about a Cream-of-Potato palace? Although it may sound strange, both of these and more could be found last week on display in Bruno's. The architects of these canned goods estates were competing for the best

canned food sculpture in the spirit of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This was the kick-off event of several efforts made by Penn State Erie students, clubs and organizations to give to those less fortunate. All of the goods collected were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank and will help those needy local families this holiday.

In addition to the canned goods sculpture contest, several students, clubs and organizations collaborated to create a Cardboard City all over campus. The constructors were to spend an entire night in their creations regardless of temperature or precipitant conditions. The Alpha Phi Omega sorority box, located to the left of the Reed Union Building's entrance had collected nearly \$70 by 5 p.m. Tuesday evening but noticed the chilly climate endured in doing so. Senior member Amy Sabo said that the day moved rather slow considering she had been there since 11 a.m. Sabo stated, "A lot of people have helped, but there are still a lot of people that turn you down," as one more "sorry, not today" walked by.

On the far right of Reed was the Matchbox Players' and the Behrend Beacon's cardboard home, appropriately named "Ye Olde

Saloon." The Western-style room was complete with Wanted posters, dueling music and of course, swinging saloon doors. Passersby were asked to donate their spare money to the cardboard invention he or she deemed the most creative. Many contributors found the Matchbox Players' and the Behrend Beacon's home just this as the group turned in \$213.75 by the end of the night. Matchbox also encountered televised interviews with CBS News and the Penn State Newswire as well. An estimated 256 man hours of labor went into the building of



David Greco/THE BEHREND BEACON

Brian Song tends bar at Ye Olde Saloon during Behrend's annual Cardbord City.

the saloon, which was well worth the results according to members. The recycled creations were built from cardboard boxes that local businesses threw away. All of the money collected benefited the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Besides the great success of the city, a Poker Tournament to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank was held. Also, many Residents Halls collected canned goods for donation throughout the week as well as organizations such as the Returning Adult Student Organization. RASO challenged all its members and the Corry Manufacturing Company to bring in one canned

good or to donate one dollar. They collected \$243 for the efforts, as well as nearly 287 pounds of food. RASO president interim, Lou Anne Glontz, said that the project was very successful, with 93 percent participation.

If you would like to further contribute, the Northwest Second Harvest Food Bank can be reached at 814-459-3663 or by emailing the executive director, Karen Segie at kseggi@eriefoodbank.org. Their location is 1703 Ash Street in Erie.

## Communication honor society renewed at Behrend

By Colleen Applebaugh  
contributing writer  
October 7, 2006

Lambda Pi Eta is the official Communication Studies honor society of the National Communication Association (NCA). The society was founded in 1985 at the University of Arkansas and became a part of the NCA in 1988. Lambda Pi Eta was first recognized as the official honor society of the NCA in July 1995.

Although there are many goals of the honor society, Lambda Pi Eta prides itself on four primarily. First, Lambda Pi Eta intends to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in Communication Studies. After all, this is an academic honors organization, setting its very foundation on the principles of academic excellence. The second objective is to stimulate interest in the field of communication. The significance and relevance communications has to all disciplines of study is unknown to many scholars; therefore, the organization attempts to make that connection. To promote and encourage professional development among Communications majors is another purpose of the group. College is a place of education and development; it is in practical uses that students fulfill their experiences within their subjects. Lastly, Lambda Pi Eta explores options for graduate education in communication studies and post educational opportunities in a professional setting.

Like other organizations, Lambda Pi Eta has eligibility requirements in order to obtain membership. In order to become a member, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 for all courses taken, and at least a 3.25 GPA for all Communication Studies courses. Along with GPA requirements, interested students must have completed the equivalent of 12 semester credit-hours in Communication Studies and currently be enrolled as a student in good standing, as determined by the institution's policies. Therefore, not just Communications majors are entitled to join, but minors are also accepted.

Lambda Pi Eta, the Omicron chapter, has recently been reestablished here at Behrend. In the spring semester of 2005, the Omicron chapter inducted its founding members. This elite group of Communication scholars is planning activities in the near future, to be a mix of social, academic and community service activities.

Other sources on the society can be found at the NCA website: <http://www.natcom.org/nca/>. For more information concerning admittance into Lambda Pi Eta, the Omicron chapter, please contact chapter president, Colleen Applebaugh, at [cm196@psu.edu](mailto:cm196@psu.edu) or chapter adviser Mrs. Cathy Mester at [csml1@psu.edu](mailto:csml1@psu.edu).

## Campus concludes culture commemoration

By Matthew Ryan Burneisen  
staff writer  
February 10, 2006

Culture week, which kicked off Monday, has brought musicians, poets, painters and activists to campus from different parts of the country and the world to expose students to new things.

On Wednesday, in the WinterGarden of the Reed Union Building, Penn State hosted Waongo. Part of the Rhythms of Life Series, Waongo is a Central African dance and drum group featuring instruments, songs and dances from the people native to Central Africa. The performance lasted for about an hour and attracted a diverse crowd. Students who had seen posters or read announcements about the event came, but people were also drawn out of Bruno's to the lively performance. Kevin Jackson of Lawrence Hall said, "I forgot about it, and I was walking back from class and it (the music) brought me in." Children from a local elementary school were found in the crowd and were very active in participating in the show. Andy Herrera, the Director of Educational Equity and Diversity Programs, said "[The group set] a very harmonious mood and did a good job incorporating the crowd into the performance."

Still to come, there is a diversity luncheon in the McGarvey Commons, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. today. Free food will be provided to students along with pamphlets, buttons and a slide show to embrace diversity and promote equality. On Saturday, Yellow Rage will perform in the McGarvey Commons from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This duo of Asian American poets should be unique. Herrera said that it should be an "amazing performance of spoken word" and

described it as "rap with poetry." He also said that they "express themselves very strongly about their experiences of being Asian American and what that is."

Culture Rush, similar to Club Rush, was held on Monday in the McGarvey Commons and had a "fairly good turn out" according to Herrera. He also stated "about 100 people came in..." and that the main purpose of Culture Rush was "[To try] to get the organizations



Jennifer Haight/THE BEHREND BEACON

Waongo, a dancing drum group, performs at Culture Week for the Behrend Community.

on campus that are multi cultural in nature, to not only make themselves available to students, but also invite to student body to check them out."

Tables were set up with balloons, finger food was served, and music from around the world was enjoyed throughout the event.

Magdalen Hsu-Li, a painter, songwriter, singer and cultural activist, spoke and performed on Tuesday in the McGarvey Commons. She is an Asian American woman who spoke out about her personal experiences of being discriminated against. Her message dealt with more than just racial prejudice but also prejudice based on her sexual orientation.

Visual Impact performed on Thursday Night and consisted of an artist who paints to music. His theme was diversity, and he filled an 8-foot canvas in the time it took for one song to play. Also on Thursday, and throughout the previous two days, the Diversity Committee had a table set up outside of Bruno's where they promoted Culture Week and their organization with giveaways and fundraising efforts.

All of these events were put together by students, faculty, and their organizations. Herrera stated, "[The] majority of the events have been coordinated by the SGA [Student Government Association] diversity committee and specifically Seraina Naef." Other groups that participated in the creation of Culture Week are the Asian Student Organization, Matchbox Players, Women Today, and Trigon.